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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

September 27, 2012

The Honorable Thomas Nides
Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Deputy Secretary Nides:

We are writing to follow up on Senator Kerry's letter to you of September 17, 2012 concerning the recent attacks against United States diplomatic and consular facilities in the Middle East. Discussions among Foreign Relations Committee members concerning those events revealed a few additional questions, the answers to which would be useful to the committee in its consideration of this important matter. Those additional questions are included in an attachment to this letter.

It would be very helpful to us if we could receive responses and a briefing on these matters during the week of November 13th when the Senate is expected to go back into session. We recognize that many of the matters may still be under analysis and investigation at that time, but given the importance of these issues to all Committee members, even an interim response would be particularly helpful and much appreciated. We also recognize that some of this information may need to be provided in a classified format.

Best regards,



RICHARD G. LUGAR
Ranking Member

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United States Senator

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United States Senator


JEANNE SHAHEEN
United States Senator

JOHNNY ISAKSON
United States Senator

CHRISTOPHER COONS
United States Senator

JOHN BARRASSO
United States Senator

RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



MIKE LEE
United States Senator

TOM UDALL
United States Senator

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Please expand the accounting of the attacks against U.S. missions in Egypt, Libya, and Yemen beginning on September 11, 2012, to include attacks that took place at any U.S. missions from September 11-13, 2012.
2. In addition to a discussion of whether host government security forces were of adequate size and were adequately trained and equipped to protect our mission, please expand your response to include a discussion of the steps, if any, those forces took to protect U.S. missions or assist U.S. personnel on the days in question.
3. In addition to whether the United States or the host governments had intelligence prior to the attacks in Egypt, Libya or Yemen, please expand your response to include an assessment of attacks that took place at any U.S. missions from September 11-13, 2012. Please also discuss whether there were adequate mechanisms in place to share that information on a timely basis with U.S. security personnel posted at the mission.
4. Please provide an assessment of the state of security of other U.S. embassies and consulates in high threat environments that were not attacked from September 11-13, 2012.